



An EPA Update on Activities  
at the Arkwood, Inc., Superfund Site  
May 6, 1994

# ARKWOOD SITE UPDATE

## THIS FACT SHEET WILL TELL YOU ABOUT . . .

- ☐ The history of the Arkwood site
- ☐ Plans to conduct remedial activities in two phases
- ☐ Activities planned for 1994
- ☐ How to find out more about the site

## SITE BACKGROUND

The Arkwood Superfund site covers a 20-acre area in Boone County, southwest of Omaha, Arkansas. From 1961 until mid-1984, the site was the location of a creosote wood-treating facility. In 1985, after pentachlorophenol (PCP) was found in two springs and three domestic wells near the site, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed that the site be added to the National Priorities List (NPL) qualifying it for investigation and remediation funding under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980. The site was added to the NPL in 1989. Mass Merchandisers, Inc., (currently known as McKesson Service Merchandising Company [McKesson]), operator of the wood-treating facility from 1973 to 1984, conducted a remedial

investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) at the site under the terms of an Administrative Order on Consent. Results of the RI showed that site soils were contaminated with PCP, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, and dioxins. The FS evaluated a number of possible plans for treating site contamination.

After reviewing the FS, EPA identified the plan that it considered to be best for the site. In order to reduce risks to human health and the environment, EPA proposed the following plan: (1) incineration of sludges and contaminated soils and (2) monitoring of groundwater followed by treatment, if necessary. Following EPA's announcement of the proposed plan, more than 100 Omaha residents signed a petition against the use of incineration at the site. In response to community concerns, EPA added a pretreatment step to the proposed plan in order to reduce the amount of material that would be incinerated. In October 1990, the EPA Regional Administrator signed a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Arkwood site that outlined the rationale for selecting the remedy for the site.

On April 8, 1991, McKesson signed a Consent Decree describing the specific remedial activities that would be conducted to comply with the remedy outlined in the ROD. The Consent Decree was entered by the court in September 1992 following a public comment period. Studies to aid in developing the remedial design began in the fall of 1992. The studies showed that dry sieving the soils, rather than sieving and washing the soils as stated in the ROD, would be a more effective pretreatment process for addressing the type of contaminants found at the Arkwood site.

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## **PHASED REMEDIAL APPROACH: INTERIM ACTION AND FINAL REMEDIAL ACTION STRATEGY**

After predesign studies showed that dry sieving would reduce the amount of material to be incinerated, EPA and McKesson agreed to conduct remedial activities for the Arkwood site in two phases. Phase I, considered an Interim Action, consists of pretreating contaminated soils through dry-sieving. Pretreated soils that meet cleanup goals will be backfilled and graded on site to reduce the possibility of adverse environmental impacts that could occur before the second phase of activities begins. Pretreated soils that do not meet cleanup goals will be stored on site in enclosed structures.

Phase II, considered the Final Action, will consist of incinerating contaminated material and closing the site. Stored soils that did not meet cleanup goals following pretreatment, along with other contaminated materials, will be incinerated on site. All remaining remedial activities specified in the ROD will be conducted during this phase before the site is closed.

Conducting remedial activities in two phases will meet two important objectives: (1) the Interim Action will decrease the risk posed by the Arkwood site while the Final Action is being designed and (2) incineration during the Final Action may proceed more effectively using information obtained during the Interim Action than it would have if the Interim Action was not conducted.

Remedial activities have been scheduled during the summer to alleviate possible technical difficulties presented by soils with a high moisture content that are more likely to be present during the other seasons.

The Interim Action is scheduled to take place during the summer of 1994. The Final Action can begin as early as the summer of 1995 if the designs for the Final Action are completed by that time.

## **ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED FOR 1994**

Several Interim Action activities have already begun at the Arkwood site. Completed activities or activities that are near completion include the following:

- Fencing and surveying the site
- Maintaining and clearing the site, including removing weeds, determining staging area locations, and setting up staging areas
- Setting up temporary site offices and a parking area

Before soil pretreatment begins, buildings will be installed on site to house equipment and to store pretreated materials. Contaminated waste drums currently on site will either be pretreated or stored for future treatment. Empty drums will be decontaminated and then disposed of off site in an appropriate municipal landfill. Some of the abandoned building foundations that currently exist on site will be demolished to prepare the site for remedial activities. Demolition waste will either be treated during the second phase of remedial activities, used onsite, or disposed of offsite.

The following specific Interim Action activities planned for pretreating soils are scheduled for 1994. They will be conducted after EPA completes its final review of the design documents. These activities include:

- Installing pretreatment buildings, storage buildings, and pretreatment process equipment
- Drying contaminated soils in place
- Excavating dried soils and testing excavated areas to confirm that the areas are clean

## ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED (Continued)

- Sieving excavated soils to separate fine-grained and coarse-grained soils
- Storing fine-grained soils and coarse-grained soils that do not meet cleanup goals
- Backfilling excavated areas with soils that meet cleanup goals, and grading the site

Contaminated soils will be tilled in place to prepare them for pretreatment. Soils will be excavated after they are adequately dried.

Dried, excavated soils will be moved to a treatment area and will be fed into the sieve to separate fine-grained soils from coarse-grained soils. Due to the nature of site contaminants, most of the coarse soils may meet the cleanup goals at this point. The coarse soils will be sampled, and any soils that do not meet cleanup goals will be stored for final treatment during the next phase of remedial activities. Soils that do meet cleanup goals will be used for backfill onsite. Finally, the site will be covered with clean topsoil and then graded.

Designs for the Final Remedy will be prepared during the fall of 1994.

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## DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions about the Arkwood site, or need additional information, please contact the following EPA representatives:

Cynthia Kaleri  
Remedial Project Manager  
U.S. EPA Region 6  
1445 Ross Avenue (6H-EA)  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733  
(214) 655-6772

Donn Walters  
Community Relations Coordinator  
U.S. EPA Region 6  
1445 Ross Avenue (6H-MC)  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733  
(214) 655-6483

**or dial EPA's toll free number:  
1-800-533-3508**

*You may also visit EPA's local  
Arkwood Information Office  
located at the:*

*Omaha Public School  
Omaha, Arkansas 72662*

*Hours are Mondays from  
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.*

*or call Pam Gass, Office Manager  
and EPA Contractor,  
at (501)426-3345*

*to make an appointment to meet  
at a more convenient time.*

**For media inquiries please call EPA's Regional Press Officer,  
Dave Bary, at (214) 655-2200**

## INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

Copies of documents related to the Arkwood site are available for review at the Arkwood Information Office and at the following information repositories:

Boone County Library  
221 West Stephenson Ave.  
Harrison, AR 72601  
(501)741-5913

Boone County Courthouse  
County Clerk's Office  
101 North Main St.  
Harrison, AR 72601  
(501)741-8428

Arkansas Department of  
Pollution Control & Ecology\*  
9001 National Parkway  
Little Rock, AR 72219-8913  
(501)562-7444

Copies of documents related to the Arkwood site are also available at the EPA Region 6 Office in Dallas, Texas, at the address listed along with the site information contacts.

\* *The Administrative Record for the site, a record of all the information that EPA considered or relied on when selecting the final remedy for the site, is available at the Arkwood Information Office and at this repository..*

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FROM:



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1445 Ross Avenue (6H-MC)  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Address Correction Requested

TO:

**INSIDE:**

**PLANS FOR CONDUCTING REMEDIAL ACTIVITIES  
AT THE ARKWOOD, INC., SITE**



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